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STATE SENATE'S WOMAN OF THE YEAR CEREMONY

Senator Jack Scott Honors Glendale Activist Lori Hartwell in Capitol Ceremony

SACRAMENTO - Glendale resident Lori Hartwell was honored as "Woman of the Year" by State Senator Jack Scott (D-Pasadena) at ceremonies held today in the state Capitol. Hartwell, a Glendale resident, has been a life-long advocate for those with kidney disease and has spent much of her time in educational outreach and support.

Members of the State legislature annually recognize a woman from each Senate District throughout the state for her community service. Today those women were officially acknowledged at a ceremony in Senate Chambers. The ceremony began shortly after ten this morning when the women were introduced and honored for their outstanding activism. Later that afternoon the honorees were scheduled to meet with First Lady Maria Shriver at a reception at the California State Museum.

"I am honored to name Lori Hartwell "Woman of the Year" for the 21st State Senate District," stated Senator Scott. "Ms. Hartwell has overcome great personal obstacles while dedicating her life to helping others. Her willingness to share her triumphs and her setbacks and her service to the community are an example for all of us. Anyone who can go through what she has in her life and turn it around to help others deserves recognition."

Hartwell's personal battle with kidney disease began when she was two and resulted in years of dialysis and three kidney transplants. For the past twelve years she has headed the non-profit Renal Support Network and has served as a patient advocate for those with chronic illness. As part of her work, she organizes a prom for teenagers with kidney disease. She also edits a website, iKidney.com and has written a book about her life "Chronically Happy - Joyful Living in Spite of Chronic Illness."

(Photos available on request)

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